

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Paul Maliszewski on February 28, 2008.

IN THE CLAIMS

- Cancel claim 6

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 8 and 9 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Re clms 1 and 7, the prior art of record does not teach nor render obvious the claimed combination wherein comprising protruding rods that support the gearshift rails, and wherein the protruding rods include first and second upper protruding rods and first and second lower protruding rods, said first and second upper protruding rods arranged opposite/symmetrically opposite each other with respect to the selector shaft, and said first and second lower protruding rods arranged opposite/ symmetrically opposite each other with respect to the selector shaft.

Re clm 8, the prior art of record does not teach nor render obvious the claimed combination wherein comprising protruding rods that support the gear shift rails, and

wherein the protruding rods have guide shoe parts at their ends resting against the gearshift rails.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JAMES PILKINGTON whose telephone number is (571)272-5052. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:00AM-4:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Ridley can be reached on (571) 272-6917. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/J. P./
Examiner, Art Unit 3682
2/28/08

/Richard WL Ridley/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3682